

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 USIE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SSO-00

NSCE-00 INRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

EA-07 FRB-03 INR-07 IO-13 NEA-10 NSAE-00 OPIC-03

SP-02 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 OIC-02

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FM USMISSION OECD PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASH DC IMMEDIATE 2987

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PASS TREASURY FOR PARSKY; AID FOR MICHALOPOULOS;
EB/OMA FOR RYAN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OECD, CIEC, EFIN, EAID

SUBJECT: OECD BACKSTOPPING OF CIEC DISCUSSIONS ON DEBT

REF: (A) STATE 163136, (B) STATE 177058,
(C) OECD PARIS 20732

1. AT JULY 21 HEADS OF DELEGATION MEETING, SECRETARY-GENERAL VAN LENNEP PROPOSED (A) THAT FOR PRACTICAL REASONS OECD PREPARATIONS FOR CIEC DEBT DISCUSSIONS BE CONCENTRATED IN THE TEMPORARY WORKING PARTY OF THE ECONOMIC POLICY COMMITTEE (TWP); AND (B) THAT TWP'S MANDATE BE AMENDED TO INCLUDE ALL MATTERS PERTAINING TO LDC DEBT THAT MAY ARISE IN ANY CIEC COMMISSION. (NOTE: CURRENTLY THE TWP'S MANDATE IS LIMITED TO ISSUES ARISING IN THE FINANCE COMMISSION (FC).

2. SEVERAL DELS (DUTCH AND SWEDES IN PARTICULAR)
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SUGGESTED THAT SECGEN'S PROPOSAL WAS PREMATURE INASMUCH

AS THE DIVISION OF WORK ON DEBT BETWEEN FC AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSIONS (DC) OF CIEC WAS STILL UNCLEAR. IN RESPONSE, VAN LENNEP POINTED OUT THAT HIS PROPOSAL WOULD NOT AFFECT THE MANDATES OF THE OTHER TWO BODIES IN THE OECD (THE NORTH/SOUTH GROUP AND THE WORKING PARTY ON FINANCIAL ASPECTS OF THE DAC) THAT WERE WORKING ON THE GENERAL PROBLEM OF LDC DEBT; THE PROPOSAL WOULD SIMPLY ENSURE THAT THE TWP'S MANDATE WAS SUFFICIENTLY BROAD TO PERMIT IT TO UNDERTAKE SPECIFIC TASK OF PREPARING FOR CIEC DEBT DISCUSSION. US, FRENCH AND SEVERAL OTHER DELEGATIONS SUPPORTED VAN LENNEP'S SUGGESTION. NONETHELESS, DUTCH DEL INSISTED THE PROPOSAL WAS MORE THAN SIMPLY A PROCEDURAL ONE BUT HAD SUBSTANTIVE IMPLICATIONS OF SOME SENSITIVITY IN HIS CAPITAL. HE ASKED FOR A DELAY IN A COUNCIL DECISION TO ALLOW HIM TO OBTAIN INSTRUCTIONS. SWEDISH DEL AGREED IT WAS MORE EFFICIENT TO CONCENTRATE OECD DEBT DISCUSSIONS IN ONE BODY BUT THOUGHT NO FIRM DECISION SHOULD BE TAKEN ON WHETHER TWP WAS APPROPRIATE BODY UNTIL SEPTEMBER. FOLLOWING THESE COMMENTS, SEC GEN AGREED TO PRESENT HIS PROPOSAL AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING, POSSIBLY IN SLIGHTLY MODIFIED FORM.

3. SECRETARIAT HAS CIRCULATED FOLLOWING NEW DRAFT ENTRY WHICH WILL BE ON AGENDA OF JULY 27 OECD COUNCIL MEETING:

BEGIN TEXT

THE COUNCIL

(A) AGREED THAT THE TEMPORARY WORKING PARTY OF THE ECONOMIC POLICY COMMITTEE SHOULD CONSIDER ANY QUESTIONS WHICH MIGHT BE DEALT WITH IN THE COMMISSION ON FINANCIAL AFFAIRS OF THE CIEC, AND QUESTIONS IN RELATION TO THE DEBT OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WHICH MIGHT BE DEALT WITH IN THAT COMMISSION OR ANY OTHER ORGAN OF THE

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CIEC;

(B) AGREED THAT FOR PRACTICAL REASONS IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR THE TIME BEING TO CONCENTRATE THE DISCUSSIONS REFERRED TO UNDER (A) IN THE TEMPORARY WORKING PARTY, IT BEING UNDERSTOOD THAT THE TEMPORARY WORKING PARTY COULD BENEFIT FROM DISCUSSIONS IN OTHER BODIES OF THE ORGANIZATION;

(C) AGREED TO RETURN TO THIS MATTER IN SEPTEMBER, AS APPROPRIATE. END TEXT

4. COMMENT: MISSION BELIEVES THAT LAST PHRASE IN PARAGRAPH (B) OF DRAFT ENTRY IS AMBIGUOUS. WHILE IT APPEARS ADVISABLE TO AVOID INITIATING DISCUSSION ON AMENDING THIS TEXT UNLESS OTHERS RAISE QUESTIONS, MISSION WOULD PLAN TO MAKE EXPLANATORY STATEMENT WHICH, IF ACCEPTED, SHOULD SERVE ADEQUATELY TO CLARIFY MEANING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF PARAGRAPH (B). STATEMENT WOULD BE ALONG LINES THAT OUR INTERPRETATION OF THE DRAFT ENTRY IS THAT WHILE (IN ACCORD WITH THE POSITION OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH 2 ABOVE) THE MANDATES OF OTHER GROUPS IN THE OECD WORKING ON LDC DEBT ARE NOT CHANGED, THE INTENT IS TO CONCENTRATE IN THE TWP PREPARATORY WORK FOR THE DEBT DISCUSSION IN THE CIEC AND THE OTHER GROUPS SHOULD NOT DUPLICATE THIS TASK OF TWP. MISSION ALSO BELIEVES THAT IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO MAKE CLEAR THAT PARAGRAPH (C) OF DRAFT ENTRY IS MERELY A CONTINGENCY POINT, SO THAT RETURNING TO SUBJECT IN SEPTEMBER WILL

NOT BE AUTOMATIC.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: MISSION WILL FOLLOW COURSE OF
ACTION DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH 4 ABOVE AT JULY 27 OECD
COUNCIL MEETING, UNLESS OTHERWISE INSTRUCTED.
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